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THREE POEMS

BY WINIFRED WELLES

HAIL AND FAREWELL

With tears and a faithful heart and brave mirth
Once on a time you watched to welcome me.
Waiting and weariness and agony
Until the last were what you thought me worth.
Oh wearier than the months that wait for birth
Are those that wait for death—How shall I be
Still while you are so still? How shall I see
Unbrokenhearted your slow steps from earth?

And so the white watchers gather and hark
For the soul's approach, the heralding horn,
And so they strain and listen for the tread
Of the free soul retreating down the dark—
Mothers, who wait for children to be born,
Children, who wait for mothers to be dead.